

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 /019 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1963

UNCLAS MEXICO 11242

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC,MX

SUBJECT: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO:

O'BRIEN, MARY ELLEN YOWELL

REF STATE 194199

1. CONSULAR ACCESS: PER POST FILES, O'BRIEN ARRESTED MARCH 26, 1974. POST LEARNED OF ARREST THRU NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DAY OR TWO LATER. FATHER VISITED EMBASSY MARCH 29 AT WHICH TIME HE WAS GIVEN LIST OF ATTORNEYS AND INFORMATION. O'BRIEN DID NOT APPEAR MAY 9 DURING FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED CONOFF VISIT AFTER ARREST, REFUSED VISIT JULY 12 AND WAS FIRST SEEN BY CONOFF IN DISTRICT COURT SEPT. 23.

2. MISTREATMENT WHILE IN PRISON: PER POST FILES, O'BRIEN TOLD CONOFF OCT. 23, 1974, THAT HER GENERAL HEALTH WAS VERY POOR DUE TO POOR DIET AND LACK OF VITAMINS AND THAT HER VISITORS HAD A "HASSLE" TO FIND OR VISIT HER. CONOFF PREVIOUSLY INFORMED BY HUSBAND ON OCT. 21 THAT DURING APPROVED CONJUGAL VISIT WITH WIFE FIVE DAYS EARLIER, GUARDS "BROKE INTO" ROOM, MADE O'BRIEN LEAVE AND SEARCHED THE ROOM, DAMAGING CLOTHES. THE NEXT MORNING HE WAS TOLD TO LEAVE AND WOULD BE ARRESTED IF HE RETURNED. HE SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH PRISON DIRECTRESS, WHO BLAMED INCIDENT ON ANTI-AMERICANISM AMONG SOME OF HER STAFF. NO FURTHER PROBLEMS OF THIS NATURE, AND EMBASSY SUPPLYING DONATED VITAMINS TO ALL PRISONERS WHO DESIRE THEM.

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3. COMMISSIONED WORK: POST FILES DATED NOV. 28, 1975

INDICATE O'BRIEN HAS COMMISSIONED WORK
FOR OVER YEAR AND SATISFIED RECEIVING FULL CREDIT FOR
ALL COMMISSIONED WORK PERFORMED TO REDUCE SENTENCE.

4. PROLONGED TRIAL DETENTION: PER POST FIELDS, IT WAS
FOURTEEN MONTHS FROM O'BRIEN'S DATE OF ARREST
UNTIL HER SENTENCE. SINCE COURT ACTION IN HER CASE
IS NOW COMPLETED, NO FURTHER ACTION IS SUGGESTED.
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